



Boston
Rural District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :

D. C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

B. V. BRODIE (Senior)

A. ATKIN.

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To :—The Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the year 1948.

The health of the community during the year has continued to be satisfactory. The number of Births notified has fallen a little, a factor common to the country as a whole, and the Death Rate is also slightly lower than for 1947. A considerable decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate which has fallen from 41.67 to 27.70 is a very satisfactory feature.

Infectious diseases occurring were of the usual nature and the cases notified almost wholly consisted of Measles, Chickenpox and Whooping Cough.

The housing question is being tackled vigorously and is a matter of satisfaction, I am sure, to the general community.

A study of the report on sewage disposal and refuse collection will show the splendid progress that has been made, and the Council are to be congratulated on the success of their scheme, ably carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

It has, therefore, been a year of continued progress and this redounds to the credit of both Councillors and Officials.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to all my fellow officials for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. C. ROBERTSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	84,398
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book	5,654
Rateable Value	£51,720
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£215
Population	19,430

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

No change has occurred in the social conditions of the District during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Male	Female.
Live Births, Legitimate	342	178	164
Illegitimate	19	13	6
Stillbirths, Legitimate	10	8	2
Illegitimate	1	Nil	1
Deaths	179	96	83
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population			18.58
Death Rate per 1,000 of population			9.21

Of the total number of deaths registered in the District during 1948, the following were in respect of children under one year of age:

Legitimate Males	7	Females	2	Total	9
Illegitimate Males	Nil	Females	1	Total	1
	<hr/> 7		<hr/> 3		<hr/> 10

The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births was therefore 27.70.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other	Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil
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SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements operated by the District Nursing Association and the Holland County Council continued to function until the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, when the general organisation for home nurses came under the control of the County Medical Officer.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Treatment Centres and Clinics in respect of Venereal Diseases, Tuberculosis, dental and orthopædic cases were provided by the Holland County Council until the 5th July, 1948, when arrangements in connection with their administration and control were variously delegated to the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board.

The Cleansing Station which was taken over by the Holland County Council on the 5th July, 1948, continues to function at the Health Centre, and further details of cases of Scabies dealt with will be found in Section F.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

This is provided by the Holland County Council, and during the year, the following specimens were examined on behalf of this Authority:—

Throat swabs	...	...	...	...	...	23
Nasal swabs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fæces	...	...	...	...	...	1

SUPPLY OF INSULIN TO DIABETICS.

Prior to the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Public

Health Act, 1936, and Circular 2734 (1943) of the Ministry of Health, provided supplies of Insulin free of charge to poor persons living in the Rural District. Cases were dealt with on the recommendation of the private doctor who referred them to the Public Health Department.

One case received regular supplies of Insulin under this Scheme.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Length of water mains laid during year	7,040	yards
Total length of mains in use during year	357	Miles
Consumption of water for 1948	132,831,000	galls.
Average per day	362,938.9	galls.

WATER SUPPLY.

No. of dwelling houses on Main	4,586
No. of Population served	18,344
No. direct to houses	4,576
No. by means of stand pipes	10

SAMPLES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

14 samples were taken from the Public Supply in different parishes at regular intervals during the year for analysis. The result in every case proved the water to be satisfactory. The samples taken were as follows:—

Full bacteriological	3
Modified bacteriological	9
Chemical	2
New Tank, Fishtoft (bacteriological)	8

8 samples of water from the New Tank, Fishtoft, were taken for Bacteriological examination prior to it being used for storage of water for general distribution.

SECTION D.

HOUSING AND SANITATION, ETC.

No. of new houses erected during 1948 other than by Local Authority	37
No. erected by the Local Authority	182
No. of houses found to be in a state unfit for human occupation	14
No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation ...	2
No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises would not be re-let but would be used for agricultural store purposes ...	5
No. of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition Order was made	7
No. of houses where an undertaking was cancelled after the Owner had carried out repairs to the satisfaction of the Council	1

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of the houses in the District below a rateable value of £17 was continued during the year and the following information obtained:—

Estimated number of houses	5125
Category 1.—Houses satisfactory in all respects ...	225
Category 2.—Houses having minor defects only ...	2350
Category 3.—Houses requiring major repairs, re- conditioning	1860
Category 5.—Houses unfit	690

No house has been placed in Category 4 owing to the inoperation of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, but this can be done at a later date if such legislation be forthcoming.

During the survey 5 cases of overcrowding were found.

BUILDING LICENCES.

During the year repairs to houses were carried out and 259 premises were visited for the purpose of ascertaining whether the work applied for under the control of Civil Building—Defence Regulations 56A, was essential or otherwise.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

1. House Scavenging. Delivery was taken of a 7 cubic yard Austin Refuse Collector, a 10 cubic yard Austin Refuse Collector and a 10 cubic yard (Double Cab) Dennis vehicle during the year, enabling the Council to extend the collection of household refuse, at periods of 9 day intervals, over the whole of the District.

2. Pail Emptying. A 750 gallon capacity Dennis Cesspool Emptying vehicle was purchased during the year and a 5-day pail emptying service commenced in the parishes of—Fishtoft, Wyberton, Kirton, Frampton, Swineshead, Bicker, Old Leake and Wrangle.

3. Cesspool Emptying. A 750 gallon capacity Karrier Cesspool Emptying vehicle was purchased and during the year 775 cesspools were emptied comprising 988 loads (741,000 gallons approximately).

The work has been executed free upon request, and a more frequent emptying than once yearly has been charged at the rate of 30/- per emptying, resulting in 164 houses being visited on a chargeable basis.

The effluent has been deposited into the Boston Borough Sewer by arrangement with the Borough Council except during periods when the vehicles could be driven on arable land when it has been deposited on land by arrangements with farmers in the district.

4. Refuse Disposal. During the year many refuse pits in the district were filled in and properly closed by soiling and a new tip was opened at Fishtoft, where controlled tipping, as recommended by the Ministry of Health, has been carried out. It is estimated that over 1,500 tons of household refuse were collected and tipped during the year.

5. SUMMARY OF SCAVENGING SERVICE.

Parish.	No. of bins.	No. of Pails.
Algarkirk	156	75
Amber Hill	139	45
Bicker	230	54
Benington	148	26
Brothertoft	140	45
Butterwick	137	10
Fishtoft	647	77
Frampton	281	57
Fosdyke	155	74
Freiston	278	56
Kirton	452	280
Kirton End	130	25
Kirton Holme	110	14
Kirton Fen	75	18
Leverton	176	45
Old Leake	421	62
Sutterton	310	86
Swineshead	546	120
Wigtoft	177	49
Wrangle	337	70
Wyberton	401	154
TOTALS	5446	1442

6. SEWAGE SAMPLING.

Samples of Sewage effluent from the undermentioned Housing Sites were taken during the year:—

Sutterton
Swineshead
Kirton
Bicker.

The samples taken from Sutterton, Kirton and Bicker satisfied the standard of purity for sewage effluent suitable for the free discharge into inland waters. In the case of Swineshead, the analysis showed that the sewage was not being efficiently treated, but after adjustments to the plant a further sample was certified satisfactory.

SALVAGE.

Three new salvage trailers were purchased during the year and the collection of salvage in conjunction with the Refuse Collection Scheme again proved successful, and a financial asset to the Council apart from contributing to the National Salvage Campaign.

Parish Salvage Campaigns were organised during the month

of May and 17½ tons of waste paper were collected. All the schools assisted, Frampton School being the most outstanding with a collection of almost 2 tons, an average weight of 15.6 lbs. per house.

The Council entered the Waste Paper Recovery Association Competition for the months of March to May inclusive and 33 tons 3 cwt. were collected, an increase over the corresponding period in 1947 of 190 per cent.

In all 96½ tons of paper, textiles and bones were collected and sold, realising for the Council £749 16s. 2d.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	52	16	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	53	4	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	113	69	6	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOME WORK.

So far as can be ascertained no outwork is undertaken in the district.

TENTS, VANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Nuisances found to exist	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

No. of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	1418
Total number of rat infested areas cleared	...	...	...	...	138
Major infestations dealt with by R.D.C.	...	...	...	...	1
Infestations dealt with by occupier	...	...	...	...	6
Number of dwellings cleared free	...	...	...	...	53

INSECT INFESTATION.

The undermentioned 22 cases of insect infestation were dealt with during the year and completely eradicated:—

Furniture Beetles	...	...	...	...	1
Cricket infestation	...	...	...	...	16
Mosquitoes	...	...	...	...	1
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	1
Flea infestation	...	...	...	...	3

DRAINAGE.

No. of lengths new drains examined	...	...	...	...	640
No. of visits for that purpose	...	...	...	...	572
No. of tests (smoke)	...	...	...	...	1
No. of tests to old houses (smoke)	...	...	...	...	3

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Register of Petroleum Licences (December 1948).

500 Gallons or less		Over 500 Gallons but not more than 1,000 Galls.		Over 1,000 Galls.		Total
To retail		To retail		To retail		145
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
8	100	16	7	8	6	

Register of Carbide of Calcium Licences (December 1948).

Under 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.		8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.		Over 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ Cwts.		Total
To retail		To retail		To retail		
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
—	3	—	4	—	—	7

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 and 1938.

A licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk treated by the pasteurising process was granted by the Council during the year.

The following Supplementary Licences were issued during the year :—

Two authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."

A Dealer's Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" was also granted.

Five samples of pasteurised milk were taken during the year and in four cases the results proved satisfactory. The case which failed to pass the test was subjected to further investigation and improvement was effected.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

No. of Cowkeepers on Register ...	...	...	...	III
No. of Retail Purveyors:—				
Premises in District ...	...	...	...	9
Premises outside District ...	...	...	...	7
			—	16

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Food condemned during the year included the following:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	752½	lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	938	lbs.
Tins of Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Tins of Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Tins of Fishpaste	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Tins of Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Tins of Beetroot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	
Tins of Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Tins of Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Tins of Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Tins of Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	
Tins of Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Tins of Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Tins of Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Packets of Barley and Oat Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	
Packets Barley Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

1.—Registration of Food Premises—Sect. 14.

No. of premises on register for the preparation of preserved foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. of premises on register for the manufacture or sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

2.—Food Poisoning.

No action was taken in connection with Food Poisoning.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

	In January, 1948	In December, 1948
Licensed	3	7

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Number of licensed slaughtermen on Register, December, 1948	82
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OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Licensed Premises (Knackers Yard)	1
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BAKEHOUSES.

No. on Register	21
No. of Inspections	28
Contraventions of Regulations	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Visits and Disinfections by the Sanitary Inspector ...	72
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SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year. All the figures included refer to civilians only, and are corrected figures:—

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1948.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Confirmed Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	Nil
Chickenpox	142	142	4	Nil
Scarlet Fever	31	31	6	Nil
Pneumonia	14	14	2	8
Erysipelas	2	2	Nil	Nil
Measles	220	220	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	132	132	Nil	Nil
Scabies	43	43	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1	Nil

With the exception of the following four diseases, the incidence of notifiable diseases is approximately comparable with the previous year:—

	1947	1948
Measles	171	220
Whooping Cough	84	132
Chicken Pox	67	142
Scabies	112	43

The high incidence of measles was due mainly to the continuance of an outbreak which occurred during the latter part of 1947, and over 70% of the notifications were received during the first quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:—

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	5	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	9	—	1	—	4	—	—

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

All facilities for the treatment of Scabies were taken over by the Holland County Council on the 5th July, 1948, and that authority now undertakes the cleansing of all infected persons, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Rural District Council. Details of all notifications received by the Public Health Department are immediately passed to the County Council, thus ensuring that all the necessary arrangements for treatment are made as early as possible.

Total number of cases notified during the year	...	43
Treatment carried out at the Cleansing Centre:—		
Children of School age	... ..	17
All persons not of School age	... ..	22
		—
Total	...	39
		—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

With the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, all administrative arrangements in connection with immunisation against Diphtheria came under the jurisdiction of the Local Health Authority. The figures given below are in respect of children immunised during the period 1st January—4th July, 1948.

Children under 5 years of age	... ..	141
Children between 5 and 15 years of age	25
Children between 5 and 15 years of age given “Booster” courses	25

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